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FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SECURITY : UNCLASSIFIED EXT. DATE PRIORITY: AIR POUCH

TO : Department of State

FROM : LAGOS TOS August 24, 1950

REF : CONDES 75, August 10, 1950

SUBJECT : Political and Economic Eventsin Nigeria for the Two-week Period Ending August 12, 1950

745H.00/8-2450

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ACTION INFO

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As usual this despatch supplements the various despatches and telegrams during the two-week period under review on special subjects.

POLITICAL AFFAIRS

Governor's Vacation Program

It is expected that the Governor of Nigeria (Sir John MACPHERSON) will leave here about the last week of September for vacation in the United Kingdom to return about Christmas. The exact date of his departure has not yet been announced but it largely depends upon the progress that the Nigerian Legislative Council may make concerning the new constitution discussed in despatch No. 57 of July 28, 1950. During his absence the Chief Secretary (H. M. FOOT) will be Acting Governor (technically Officer Administering the Governornment). In this connection, reference is made to despatch No. 92 of August 19, 1950 transmitting Mr. Foot's radio address that he made with regard to his recent visit to the United States.

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Shepardson Visit

Referring to the item under the heading "Visit of American Representing Carnegie Foundation and also ECA" in despatch No. 75 of August 10, 1950, Mr. and Mrs. SHEPARDSON returned to Lagos August 10th and stayed with the Consul General who gave for the British Commanding General for Nigeria (Major General C. B. FAIRBANKS) and Mrs. Fairbanks, and Mr. and Mrs. Shepardson, a dinner on August 11th. The following day Mr. and Mrs. Shepardson moved to Government House under the arrangement between the Governor and the Consul General that they would be staying two days with each. Mr. Shepardson had the opportunity to interview some more Government officials and other persons in Lagos, and then he and Mrs. Shepardson left August 14th for Accra from where they expected to proceed directly to the United States.

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Chief of Benin Visits Britain

His Highness The Oba of Benin (the African Chief of a considerable area in the Western Provinces) left Lagos on a West African

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Airways Corporation plane on August 10th for Britain, accompanied by his wife (the Ohan) and their 19-year old daughter, on a visit arranged by the British Council and the Nigerian Government to study local administration. He hopes to have an audience with the King and to see the Prime Minister and the Colonial Secretary (Messrs. Atlee and Griffiths). According to the Press, his visit will be the first time that an Oba of Benin has visited Britain.

Zik Press Comment on Colonial Dollars

The Nationalist West African Pilot of August 4th had an editorial on "The Colonial Dollar Effort" regarding Sir Stafford Cripps' recent announcement in the British House of Commons that the Exchequer's working reserves had increased from $1.34 billions to $2.42 billions since Devaluation last September and an explanation by a Parliamentarian that the gain was due to the United Kingdom's colonies - specifically citing Malaya; the Zik Editor said:

> "Hard facts indeed for pride-ridden colonial overlords who are not only unprepared to concede them but to shoot down colonial labourers whose sweat and tears, let alone their lands and mineral resources, make it possible for Britain to live. One billion dollars is a staggering figure. And yet it has been earned within nine months by colonials for a Britain that is not appreciative. That is the irony of fore-- rule."

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Hermes Exhibition Flight

The West African Airways Corporation which is a subsidiary of the British Overseas Airways Corporation has replaced its York planes that carry 22 passengers by new Hermes carrying 40. Accordingly, WAAC inaugurated the service by bringing a Hermes to Lagos for three exhibition flights to each of which 40 persons were invited, including the Governor, principal departmental officials, judges, the Commanding General, business leaders and others. It was interesting as there was an opportunity to cruise over the southern part of Dahomey and also to pass over the steamer Accra of the Elder Dempster Lines on which Lady Macpherson had left that day for an extended vacation in Great Britain.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Possible Additional American Mission in Nigeria

Two American missionaries (Eldred L. ECHOLS of Johannesburg, South Africa, and Robert B. REESE of Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia) who are visiting Nigeria called at the Consulate General during the period under review. They came to this country in response to a request from an African Mission to establish a branch of their organization (The Church of Christ Mission) which they expect may

be located at Itu near Port Harcourt in the Eastern Provinces. They said that during the war they supplied materials for Nigerian troops and have now received requests from about 300 people to open here. They also said that each of their churches in the missionary field is supported by an American congregation - the one at Johannesburg by a church in Texas and the one in Salisbury by a church in Tennessee. They expected to spend about two weeks in Nigeria and hoped by then to know whether there would be any prospects for establishing a mission in this country; they were informed with regard to the applicable laws and practices.

Nigerian Missionaries Propose to Visit U.K. and U.S.

A news item in the Lagos Nationalist West African Pilot of August 8th said:

"GOD'S KINGDOM SOCIETY MEN TO PREACH PEACE IN U.K. &.U.S.A.

"According to a release from its headquarters, the God's Kingdom Society of Nigeria proposes to send a delegation to the United Kingdom and United States to preach the gospel of peace, and the message of the God of Africa.

"The delegates, it is understood, will tour all principal towns of Nigeria to organise the Lord's 'other sheep,' for charity begins at home.

"'Africa was the cradle of Moses and Jesus Christ and the fountain of peace,' adds the release in asserting the qualification of Africans as the chosen emissaries of peace to all nations."

and the Editor in the same issue, taking his usual African line, supported the idea - even intimating that a new St. Augustine may yet go from Black Africa to Christianize the White World.

USIS Film on Korea

The 35-mm film UN Aids Korea transmitted to the Consulate General for exhibition in commercial theaters has been shown at seven public motion picture houses in Lagos and is now touring the country. A telegraphic request has been made for a duplicate print which will be simultaneously shown in the Eastern Provinces. The local distributor has given it excellent press publicity and it is reported that public reaction has been enthusiastic.

Willard Quincy Stanton
American Consul General

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